

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5 and 9, without prejudice, and amend claim 1 follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a tread area that is divided into a plurality of lands by a plurality of grooves formed in the tread area, wherein

each of the grooves includes a plurality of protrusions arranged at intervals on a bottom of the groove,

the protrusions are lower than the lands from the bottom of the groove, and separated from the lands,

each of the protrusions includes

a protrusion main body having a top portion that is a highest portion from the bottom of the groove; and

a slope portion having a ~~slop~~slope that makes an angle with the bottom of the groove in a range between 3 degrees and 60 degrees, and

the slope portion is formed in at least one direction along the groove,

wherein a joint is provided between two adjacent protrusions,

a height of the joint is equal to or less than 1 millimeter from the bottom of the groove,

the two adjacent protrusions are connected by the joint, and

wherein the slope portion is formed in three directions or more with respect to the protrusion main body.

2. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the slope portion is formed in at least two opposite directions with respect to the protrusion main body along the groove.

3. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a width of the slope is 0.7 time to 1.1 times of a width of the top portion in a direction of the width of the slope.

4. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a height of the top portion from the bottom of the groove is equal to or more than 2 millimeters and equal to or less than a half of a height of the lands.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the lands form a block pattern,  
the grooves intersect each other to form an intersection, and  
the protrusion main body is located at the intersection.

7. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the lands form a block pattern,

the grooves intersect each other to form an intersection,  
the protrusion main body is located at the intersection, and  
the slope portion is formed in a plurality of directions along the grooves.

8. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the  
lands form a block pattern,

the grooves intersect each other, and

the slope portion is bent from a first groove in which the protrusion main  
body connected with the slope portion is formed in a direction along a second groove that  
intersects the first groove.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the  
slope portion is formed in four directions or less with respect to the protrusion main body.

11. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the  
angle between the slope portion and the bottom of the groove is equal to or less than 30  
degrees.

12. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the  
protrusion main body and the slope portion are separated from each other.

13. The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a width of the slope is same as a width of the top portion in a direction of the width of the slope.

14. The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a width of the slope is different from a width of the top portion in a direction of the width of the slope.